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CONTENTS OF VOLUME IV.

Engraving of the Right Rev. BENJAMIN MOORE, D. D. former Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New-York.

JANUARY.

Brief Memoir of the Right Rev. BENJAMIN MOORE, former Bishop of the Diocese of New-York, and an extract of Bishop Hobart's Address, at his funeral. 1

SERMON I.

By the Right Rev. BENJAMIN MOORE, D. D.—*On the terrors and mercies of God.*

2 COR. v. 11.—"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." 7

Lines by Bishop Moore to a lady in affliction. 16

FEBRUARY.

SERMON II.

By the Rev. PIERRE ALEXIS PROAL, A. M. Rector of St. George's Church, and Professor of French Literature in Union College, Schenectady, New-York.—*The Laity, Fellow Labourers with the Ministry.* Delivered before the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New-York, October 3d, 1833.

ROMANS xvi. 3.—"My helpers in Christ Jesus." 17

MARCH.

SERMON III.

By the Rev. T. S. W. Mott, Missionary at Lenoir and parts adjacent, N. C.—*Utility of Persevering Prayer considered.*

1 Thess. v. 17.—"Pray without ceasing." 41

APRIL.

SERMON IV.

By the Rev. Theodore Edson, Rector of St. Ann's Church, Lowell, Massachusetts.—*On the Religious Capabilities of Children.*

Proverbs viii. 17.—"I Love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." 53

Youth encouraged to seek Christ. 65

Discriminating Preaching of the Gospel. 66

MAY.

SERMON V.

By the Right Rev. Samuel Seabury, the former venerated Bishop of Connecticut.—*The Nature of Temptation.*

James i. 13—15.—"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted of evil, neither tempteth he any man. But, every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. . . . 69

SERMON VI.

By the Rev. Palmer Dyer, Missionary at Syracuse, Onondaga county, New-York.—*Faithful Counsellors hated.*

1 Kings xxii. 8.—"There is yet one man, by whom we may inquire of the Lord; but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." 77

JUNE.

SERMON VII.

By the Rev. C. E. Gadsden, D. D. Rector of St. Philip's Church, Charleston, S. Carolina.—*The old Paths of the Church.*

Jer. vi. 16.—"Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein." 85

Importance of cultivating sacred music, and practising it in the house of God. 97

JULY.

SERMON VIII.

By the Rev. Chauncey Colton, A. M. President of Bristol College. *Youthful Pleasure.*

Ecclesiastes xi. 9.—"Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the way of of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all things these God will bring thee into judgment." 101

AUGUST.

SERMON IX.

By the Rev. John R. Goodman, Rector of Christ Church, Newbern, N. Carolina.—*Importance of Clerical Learning.*

Acts vii. 22.—"And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians." 113

SERMON X.

By the Rev. Palmer Dyer, Missionary at Syracuse, Onondaga County, New-York.—*The Wrath of Man praises God.*

Psalm lxxvi. 10.—"Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain." 126

SEPTEMBER.

SERMON XI.

By the Rev. David Cook Page, Rector of Christ Church, Louisville, Kentucky.—"*The Strait Gate*" *and* "*the Narrow Way.*"

Luke xiii. 24.—"Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." 133

OCTOBER.

SERMON XII.

By Rev. J. P. K. Henshaw, D. D. Rector of St. Peter's Church, Baltimore, Maryland.—*The past state, and present prospects of the Church.* Delivered before the Prayer Book, and Homily Society, of the Diocese of Maryland, 29th May, 1834.

Psalm cii. 13, 14.—"Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof." 145

NOVEMBER.

Brief memoir of the Rev. James Montgomery, D. D. By his friend the Right Rev. George W. Doane, D. D. "*The righteous hath hope in his death.*" 165

Lines by the Rev. Wm. Croswell, Rector of Christ Church, Boston. . 175

Inscriptions for the monuments proposed to be erected by the vestry of St. Stephens.

For the Grave Stone, and Mural Tablet. 177

SERMON XIII.

By the Rev. James Montgomery, D. D. Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia.—*The Service of the Church: its meaning, its excellences, and the defects in its performance.*

Exod. xii. 26.—"What mean you by this Service?" 178

DECEMBER.

SERMON XIV.

By the Rev. Nathaniel S. Wheaton, D. D. President of Washington College, Hartford, Conn.—*Happiness or Misery the result of choice.*

Gal. vi. 7, 8.—"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." 193

Public Worship.—Observance of the Sabbath. 202

A

BRIEF MEMOIR

OF THE

RIGHT REV. BENJAMIN MOORE, DECEASED,

FORMER BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW-YORK.

"THIS very sincerely beloved and venerated Prelate was born at Newtown, Long Island, on the 5th day of October, 1748; he attended the school there, and subsequently, in the City of New-York, in order to prepare for his entrance into King's (now Columbia) College, where he graduated. He pursued his studies, after he graduated, at Newtown, under the direction of Dr. Auchmuty, Rector of Trinity Church; and he was engaged some years in teaching Latin and Greek to the sons of several gentlemen residing in the City of New-York.

"He went to England in May, 1774; was ordained *Deacon*, on Friday, June 24th, in the same year, in the chapel of the Episcopal Palace at Fulham, by the Right Rev. Richard Terrick, Bishop of London; and *Priest*, on Wednesday, June 29th, in the same place, in the same year, and by the same Bishop.

"After his return from England he officiated in Trinity Church and its chapels, and was appointed, with the Rev. Mr. Bowden, (since Dr. Bowden, of Columbia College,) an Assistant Minister of Trinity Church, of which Dr. Auchmuty was Rector, and afterward Dr. Inglis, since Bishop of Nova-Scotia, and father of the present Prelate of that province. On the resignation of Bishop Provost, Dr. Moore was appointed Rector of Trinity Church, December 22d, 1800; and was unanimously elected Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church

in the State of New-York, at a Special Convention, held in the City of New-York, on the 5th of September, 1801; and was consecrated Bishop at Trenton, New-Jersey, in St. Michael's Church, on Friday, September 11th, of the same year, by the Right Rev. Bishop White of Pennsylvania, presiding Bishop, the Right Rev. Bishop Clagget of Maryland, and the Right Rev. Bishop Jarvis of Connecticut.

"In the month of February, 1811, he was attacked by a paralysis, and for the two or three years previous to his death, repeated attacks gradually weakened and disabled him; and on the evening of Tuesday, the 27th of February, 1816, he expired at his residence at Greenwich, New-York, in the 60th year of his age."

We know not in what way we can more properly do reverence to the *name*, the *character*, and the *high standing* of Bishop Moore, than by subjoining the following extracts from the very striking and forcible ADDRESS, delivered by our venerated deceased Bishop Hobart, at his funeral, on Friday, the 1st day of March, 1816, in Trinity Church, in the City of New-York:—

FUNERAL ADDRESS.

"People of the Congregation! the remains of your Pastor lie before you,—the beloved Pastor who so long fed you with the bread of life, and whose accents of persuasion you have so often heard in this sacred place."

"My Brethren of the Episcopal Clergy! we long mourned the living death of our spiritual Father,—his sufferings are terminated,—he is at rest.

"Yes, Brethren, our venerable Father is gone! In the bosom of Abraham, in the paradise of GOD, in the custody of the Lord JESUS, his soul reposes; waiting in peace and joy its 'perfect consummation and bliss in GOD's eternal and everlasting glory.' Soon the sentence that sin has brought on the whole human race, is to be pronounced on the revered remains before us,—'Earth to earth—ashes to ashes—dust to dust.'"

"But he lives with us in the memory of his virtues. Let us recall and cherish them. Let us keep him a little longer

with us,—not as of late, when languishing under disease he gradually lost that engaging expression which had so *eminently* characterized him, until he at last sunk in the darkness of death. But let us view him, such as you, people of the Congregation, beheld him, when he appeared among you as your Pastor,—such as we, my Brethren, beheld him, when he exercised over us his paternal authority."

"I should indeed violate that simplicity, which in a high degree adorned him, if I were to indulge in the language of inflated panegyric. Simplicity was his distinguishing virtue. He was unaffected,—in his tempers, in his actions, in every look and gesture. Simplicity, which throws such a charm over talents, such a lustre over station, and even a celestial loveliness over piety itself, gave its insinuating coloring to the talents, the station, and the piety of our venerable Father. But it was a simplicity accompanied with uniform prudence, and with an accurate knowledge of human nature.

"A grace allied to simplicity, was the meekness that adorned him,—a meekness which was 'not easily provoked,'—never made an oppressive display of talents, of learning, or of station, —and condescended to the most ignorant and humble, and won their confidence; while associated with dignity, it commanded respect, and excited affection in the circles of rank and affluence. And it was a meekness that pursued the dictates of duty with firmness and perseverance."

"His piety, arising from a lively faith in the Redeemer, whom he served, and whose grace he was commissioned to deliver, warmed as it was by his feelings, was ever under the control of sober judgment. A strong evidence of its sincerity, was its entire freedom from every thing like ostentation. It did not proclaim itself at the corners of the streets,—it did not make boastful pretensions, or obtrude itself on the public gaze, —but it was displayed in every domestic, every social, and in every public relation. It was not the irregular meteor, glittering for a moment, and then sinking in the darkness from which it was elicited; but the serene and steady light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

" He rose to public confidence and respect, and to general esteem, solely by the force of talents and worth. In the retirement of a country village, the place of his nativity, he commenced his literary career, and he prosecuted it in the public seminary of this City; and subsequently, in his private studies, until he became the finished scholar and the well-furnished divine."

" This City was the only scene of his parochial labors. Here he commenced, and here he has closed his ministerial life."

" People of the Congregation! you have seen him, regular and fervent, yet modest and humble, in performing the services of the sanctuary. You cannot have forgotten that voice of sweetness and of melody, yet of gravity and solemnity, with which he excited, while he chastened your devotions; nor that evangelical eloquence which, gentle as the dew of heaven, insinuated itself into your hearts."

" His love for the Church was the paramount principle that animated him. He entered on her service in the time of trouble. Steady in his principles, yet mild and prudent in advocating them; while he never sacrificed consistency, he never provoked resentment. In proportion as adversity pressed upon the Church, was the firmness of the affection with which he clung to her; and he lived until he saw her, in no inconsiderable degree, by his counsel and exertions, raised from the dust, and putting on the garments of glory and beauty.

" It was this affection for the Church which animated his Episcopal labors,—which led him to leave *that* family whom he so tenderly loved, and *that* retirement which was so *dear* to him, and where he *found*, while he *conferred* enjoyment; and to seek in remote parts of the diocese for the sheep of CHRIST'S fold. I know that his memory lives where I have traced the fruits of his labors."

" My Brethren of the Episcopal Clergy! I need not tell you, how much prudence, gentleness, and affection distinguished his episcopal relation to you.

" And, my respected Brethren, we are not without many

recent monitions of *that summons* which we shall all receive,—— ‘ Give an account of thy stewardship.’ A Presbyter, whose worth and usefulness, from his vicinity to us, are well known, has been recently taken from us.* But a few months since, and this temple witnessed your attendance on the last solemn offices of a venerable Father,† the remains of another are now before us, with the exception of one ‡ to whom we still look with reverence, who was the companion of his youth, the associate of his early labors, and the sympathizing friend of his old age; he is the last in this diocese of those venerable men who derived their ordination from the Parent Church, and whose characters are marked by attachment to evangelical truth, in connexion with primitive order. My Brethren, let not their principles descend with them to the grave. *Soon*—yes, soon *our* course will be finished!—*our* account at the great day will be demanded!—and how awful the responsibility of those, to whom CHRIST has intrusted the charge of ‘ the sheep for whom he shed his blood,—of the congregation which is his spouse and body.’ ”

“ People, whom I see before me! *you* have an account to render,—an account of the use which you have made of your talents, your time, your privileges; of the means of grace and salvation; and animating, indeed, is the reflection, that to the servant who faithfully employs the talents intrusted to him, there is a *resurrection of life.*”

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* The Rev. Elias Cooper, Rector of St. John’s Church, Yonkers, N. Y.

† The Right Rev. Bishop Provost.

‡ The Rev. Dr. Bowden.